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The United Nations University, through a worldwide network of research institutes and scholars, conducts policy relevant research to assist the United Nations in the resolution of pressing global problems.

Human beings have come together over time to create institutions great and small – from the smallest NGO, to the wealthiest corporations, the strongest states and the United Nations itself. Such institutions can contribute much to the health, wealth, happiness and security of individuals. However, the same institutions can also pose enormous threats to human security. UNU strives to acquire and disseminate knowledge for strengthening human security and advancing human development.

I am more than ever convinced of the fundamental importance of governance for both the security and the development agendas of the United Nations. This is why I am very pleased that UNU has joined forces with Griffith University in Australia to set up the network-based Institute for Ethics, Governance and Law (IEGL) for research and capacity building in institutional and community governance.

Governance is the art of ensuring that institutions, by being grounded in law and informed by ethics, enhance the lives of the people they were created to serve rather than threaten those whom they touch. IEGL's approach to good governance asks institutions to justify themselves to the communities in which they operate by the values for which they stand. Institutions and leaders who live up to those values have greater integrity than those who use institutional power and resources to advance their own interests at the expense of core values.

This approach is exemplified in IEGL's projects, such as the ethics of intervention, deterring and defeating threats to democracy, mapping national integrity systems, and building ethics into the corporate governance of public agencies, government owned corporations, large and small companies, and the professions.

I am confident that such work will flourish in the joint UNU-Griffith Institute and, like other UNU work, will generate in-depth empirical and analytical research that provides a helpful guide to the United Nations in its operations.

I anticipate important work from this new Institute and look forward to hearing news on your progress.



Professor Dr Hans van Ginkel,
Rector, United Nations University
United Nations Under-Secretary-General

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Institute for Ethics, Governance and Law

A Joint Initiative of the
United Nations University
and Griffith University

Griffith University is one of Australia's leading universities. Since its foundation, it has been recognised for its academic innovation, strong sense of social justice and equity, and a deep commitment to engaging and benefiting the broader community. Since 1999, Griffith has hosted Australia's only Australian Research Council (ARC) Centre for Law or Governance – the Key Centre for Ethics, Law, Justice and Governance (KCELJAG). In 2004, Griffith also became host of the ARC's Governance Research Network, one of only 24 successful bids across all universities and all disciplines for such a network.

Good governance is increasingly seen as an absolute necessity in Australia and the region. It is seen as essential for:

- Democratic legitimacy;
- Economic development of the countries in the region and the region as a whole;
- National and regional stability.

It is also seen as the first line of defence against corruption. Consequently, national and multilateral aid agencies are now funding governance reform work. International foundations are also providing major support for programs of research and advocacy for good governance reform.

The Institute for Ethics, Governance and Law (IEGL) is a joint initiative of the United Nations University and Griffith University, linked to KCELJAG and now with links to the Governance Research Network. The Institute's vision is to be a globally networked resource for the development of values-based governance through research and capacity building. It aims to engage other academic, non-government organisations (NGOs), government, business and multilateral institutions and networks to improve governance and build institutional integrity in governments, corporations, NGOs and international institutions. Through the establishment of IEGL, Griffith has become a "United Nations University Associated Institution" – the first in Australasia and one of only a dozen of this kind in the world.

Mission

IEGL's mission is to build on the strengths of the participating centres to make an internationally significant contribution to research, teaching, consultancy and capacity building in the areas of institutional and community governance, with an emphasis on:

- (a) Values-based governance, involving a combination of ethical standard setting, legal regulation and institutional reform.
- (b) Cross-disciplinary theorising and empirical work that brings together the normative sciences of ethics and law with the social sciences of international relations, political science, economics, sociology and criminology.
- (c) Networking of governance centres in Australia, the region and the world.

Aims

IEGL's aims include:

- (a) To engage in systematic consideration of:
 - methods by which institutions and organisations at all levels may articulate and formalise the values they wish to stand for; and
 - methods of seeking to realise those values through a combination of ethical standard setting, legal regulation, and institutional reform.
- (b) To build institutional integrity and reduce corruption.
- (c) To communicate the results of IEGL's research to relevant audiences – academics, legislators, policy makers and judges.
- (d) To contribute to public debate and policymaking.

Programs and structure

IEGL brings together a number of Key Centre research programs, related research at the United Nations University and the headquarters of Australia's Governance Research Network. IEGL will also provide Australian and regional leadership for the World Bank-supported Global Integrity Alliance. The programs will cover research in areas including:

- Values and institutions for a globalising world;
- Integrity and corruption;
- Corporate governance, regulation and responsibility;
- Environmental ethics and governance;
- Civil society governance: professions, non-government organisations and religious institutions.

IEGL is founded on a bilateral agreement signed between the UNU and Griffith. Other partners can join through signing bilateral agreements with Griffith which are ratified by the UNU. By doing so, such universities and NGOs become IEGL partners.

Charles Sampford, Director

Charles Sampford became the Foundation Dean of Law at Griffith University in 1991. He later became Director of the National Institute for Law, Ethics and Public Affairs, which was incorporated into the Key Centre in 1999. Charles has written 80 articles and chapters in Australian and foreign journals and collections ranging through law, legal education and applied ethics and has completed 18 books and edited collections. He has also won more than \$12 million in grants, consultancies and awards. Foreign fellowships include the Visiting Senior Research Fellow at St John's College Oxford (1997) and a Fulbright Senior Fellowship to Harvard University (2000). Business, government and parliamentary committees in England and Australia have consulted Professor Sampford. In September 1998, he went to Indonesia on a special mission for the World Bank to advise the Indonesian government on governance reforms to deal with corruption. Since early 2002, he has been a member of a task force on responding to threats to democracy chaired by Madeleine Albright. In September 2004, Charles became Convenor of the new ARC Governance Research Network.

